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**Amendments to Claims**

**Claim 1 (Withdrawn).** An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising an ExtN, a ExtC, and an Int interposed between said ExtN and said ExtC, wherein:

said ExtN is the N-terminal portion of the polypeptide;

said Int is an intein; and

said ExtC is the C-terminal portion of the polypeptide,

and wherein at least a portion of said nucleotide sequence has been modified to contain plant optimized codons.

**Claim 2 (Withdrawn).** An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a fusion polypeptide consisting of an ExtN, a ExtC, and an Int interposed between said ExtN and said ExtC, wherein:

said ExtN is the N-terminal portion of the polypeptide;

said Int is an intein; and

said ExtC is the C-terminal portion of the polypeptide.

**Claims 3-5 (Canceled)**

**Claim 6 (Withdrawn).** The polynucleotide of Claim 1 or 2 wherein said Int is a naturally split intein consisting of an IntN and an IntC, wherein:

said IntN is the N-terminal portion of said naturally split intein; and

said IntC is the C-terminal portion of said naturally split intein.

**Claims 7-57 (Canceled)**

**Claim 58 (Withdrawn).** The polynucleotide of Claim 6 wherein said IntN comprises both motif A as set for the in SEQ ID NO:77 and motif B as set forth in SEQ ID NO:78.

**Claim 59 (Withdrawn).** The polynucleotide of Claim 58 wherein said IntN consists essentially of both motif A as set forth in SEQ ID NO:77 and motif B as set forth in SEQ ID NO:78.

**Claim 60 (Withdrawn).** The polynucleotide of Claim 58 or 59 wherein said IntN is about 78 amino acids in length.

**Claim 61 (Withdrawn).** The polynucleotide of Claim 6 wherein said IntN is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:71.

**Claim 62 (Withdrawn).** The polynucleotide of Claim 6 wherein said IntN has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:72.

**Claim 63 (Withdrawn).** A vector comprising the polynucleotide of any of claims Claim 58 - 62.

**Claim 64 (Withdrawn).** A host cell comprising the polynucleotide of any of claims Claim 58 - 62

**Claim 65 (Withdrawn).** A transgenic plant comprising the polynucleotide of any of claims Claim 58 - 62

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**Claim 66 (Withdrawn).** A seed comprising the polynucleotide of any of claims Claim 58 – 62

**Claim 67 (Previously Added).** A method for producing a protein comprising an ExtN and a ExtC, said method comprising:

- (a) obtaining an N-nucleotide sequence that encodes an N-polypeptide comprising an ExtN and an IntN wherein the IntN comprises:
  - i) motif A as set for the in SEQ ID NO:77 and motif B as set forth in SEQ ID NO:78; or
  - ii) the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:71;
- (b) obtaining a C-nucleotide sequence that encodes a C-polypeptide comprising an IntC and an ExtC;
- (c) transforming a plant host with said N-nucleotide sequence and said C-nucleotide sequence such that said plant produces said protein; and
- (d) optionally recovering said protein.